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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/542,628	05/22/2006	Fredric R. Bloom	0942.5620001/RWE/FRC	7340
26111 7590 10/08/2008 STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C. 1100 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005				
EXAMINER				
VOGEL, NANCY TREPTOW				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1636				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
10/08/2008		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/542,628

Applicant(s)

BLOOM ET AL.

Examiner

NANCY VOGEL

Art Unit

1636

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SF/88)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-12 are pending in the case.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claim 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

It is apparent that strain BRL3946 is required to practice the invention. As such, the strain must be readily available or obtainable by a repeatable method set forth in the specification, or otherwise readily available to the public. If it is not so obtainable or available, the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, may be satisfied by a deposit of the strain. In the instant case, the process to generate the strain that is disclosed in the specification does not appear to be repeatable, nor does it appear the strain is readily available to the public.

If a deposit is made under the terms of the Budapest Treaty, then an affidavit or declaration by Applicants, or a statement by an attorney of record over his or her signature and registration number, stating that the instant invention will be irrevocably and without restriction released to the public upon the issuance of a patent, would satisfy the deposit requirement made herein. If a deposit has not been made under the Budapest Treaty, then in order to certify that the deposit meets the

- criteria set forth in 37 CFR 1.801-1.809 and MPEP 2402-2411.05, Applicant may provide assurance of compliance by affidavit or declaration, or by a statement by an attorney of record over his or her signature and registration number showing that:
- a) during the pendency of the application, access to the invention will be afforded to the Commissioner upon request;
 - b) all restrictions upon availability to the public will be irrevocably removed upon the granting of the patent;
 - c) the deposit will be maintained in a public depository for a period of 30 years, or 5 years after the last request for the enforceable life of the patent, whichever is longer;
 - d) a test of the viability of the biological material at the time of deposit (see 37 CFR 1.807); and
 - e) the deposit will be replaced if it should ever become inviable.

Failure to make one of the preceding indications in response to this Office Action will result in the rejection being maintained in either a second Non-Final or a Final rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Donahue et al. (US Patent 6,709,854) in view of Hiom et al. (Nucl. Acids. Res., 19, 9,

2502, 1991), Grant et al. (Proc. Natl. Acad. Sc. USA, 87, 4645-4649, June 1990), Swartz et al. (US Patent 5342763).

Donahue et al. disclose an E. Coli bacteria which is a K-12 strain, which comprises an F' episome that confers high efficiency transformability; and which has a mutation that allows transformation with unmethylated nucleic acids (hsdR17). See DH5alpha F'1 or F'2 (see Table in col. 9). DH5alpha has the genotype: deoR, endA1 gyrA96, hsdR17(r_K- m_K+), recA1, relA1, supE44, thi-1, __ (lacZYA-argFV169), ,80lacZ_M15, F-. The F' element disclosed by the reference as being present in the strains is the F' episome from strain XL1-Blue or XL2-Blue, which has the genotype F' proAB+ lacIqΔM15 Tn10(TetR). The difference between the reference and the instant claims is that mutations that allow transformation of methylated nucleic acids, and that confer resistance to bacteriophage infection are not present. However, strains with mutations that allow transformation of methylated nucleic acids are well known in the art and are commercially available. Hiom et al. (Nucleic acids research,) teach that mutations in mcrA increase transformation by reducing restriction of methylated DNA. Furthermore, Grant et al. disclose that mutations in mcrA and mcrB and mrr result in strains that allow transformation with methylated DNA and facilitate cloning of modified chromosomal DNA (see strain DH5alpha MCR, page 4645 col. 2). Swartz et al. disclose E. coli strains having mutation or deletion of the tonA gene, in order to confer resistance to bacteriophage infection (see col. 19-20). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have modified an E. coli strain such as that disclosed by Donahue et al., to include any and all of the mutations disclosed in Hiom et al, Grant et al., or Swartz

et al. since the construction of E. coli strains with desired phenotypes was disclosed in each of these references. One would have been motivated to do so by the desire to obtain a strain having the characteristics or phenotypes generated using the disclosed mutations, which include resistance to phage infection, ability to transform with methylated or unmethylated DNA, and increased transformability, since mutations for each of these characteristics are well known in the art as taught by the references, and the combinations of gene mutations having well known advantageous phenotypes into a bacterial strain was well known in the art as taught by the references. Based upon the teachings of the cited references, the high skill of one of ordinary skill in the art, and absent evidence to the contrary, there would have been a reasonable expectation of success to result in the claimed invention.

Conclusion

No claims are allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to NANCY VOGEL whose telephone number is (571)272-0780. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00 - 3:30, Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Woitach can be reached on (571) 272-0739. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/NANCY VOGEL/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1636

NV
10/1/08